

Youth Smoking

The prevalence of cigarette smoking (“smoked in the last 30 days”) among 8th and 10th graders has declined dramatically since 1996 and among 12th graders since 2000 (data not collected in 1996 and 1998). Additionally, California youth have a significantly lower smoking prevalence compared to the rest of the United States.

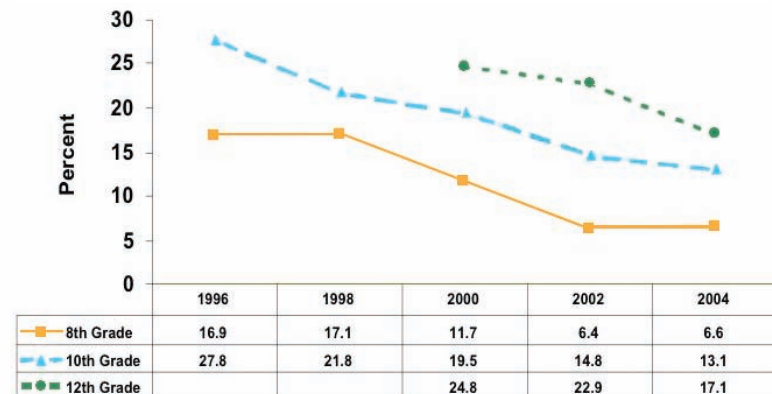
Youth Prevalence by Grade Level

- 30-day smoking prevalence decreased by 60.9% for 8th graders between 1996 and 2004—from 16.9% to 6.6%.
- 30-day smoking prevalence decreased by 52.9% for 10th graders between 1996 and 2004—from 27.8% to 13.1%.
- 30-day smoking prevalence decreased by 31.0% for 12th graders between 2000 and 2004—from 24.8% to 17.1%.

Youth Prevalence by School Type

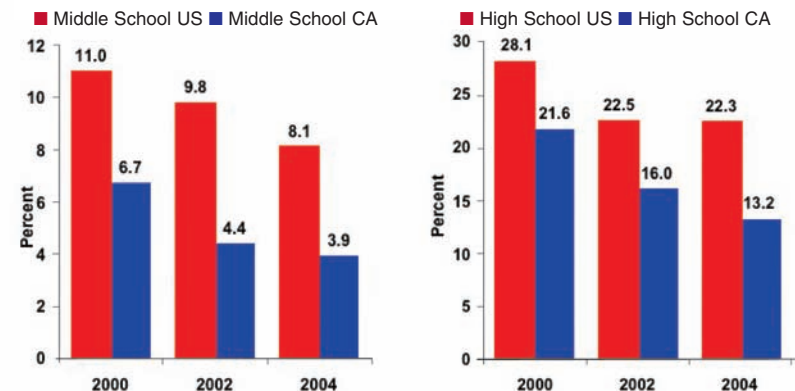
- Smoking rates for high school students (9th–12th grade) declined about 39%—from 21.6% in 2000 to 13.2% in 2004.
- Smoking rates for middle school students (6th–8th grade) declined about 42%—from 6.7% in 2000 to 3.9% in 2004.
- In 2000, 2002, and 2004, California students had a lower smoking prevalence compared to U.S. students.
- California middle school students smoke at half the rate of their U.S. counterparts (3.9% vs 8.1%).
- California high school students smoke about 41% less than their U.S. counterparts (13.2% vs 22.3%).

30-Day Smoking Prevalence among 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders in California, 1996–2004



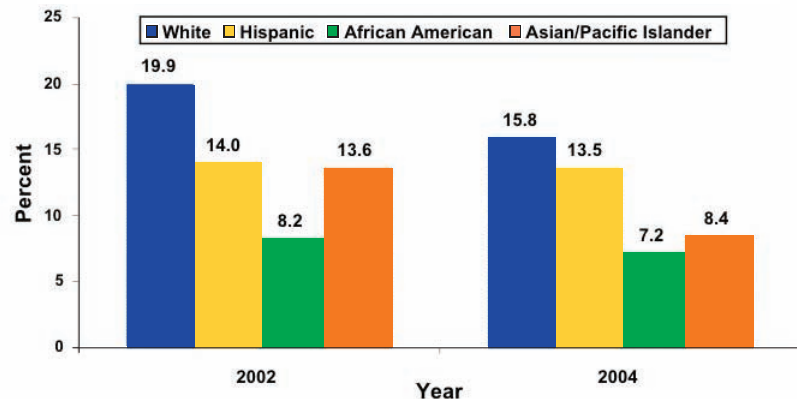
Source: The 1996, 1998, and 2000 data are from the Independent Evaluation of the Tobacco Control Program, which used passive parental consent. The 2002–2004 data is from the California Student Tobacco Survey, which used active parental consent. 12th grade data was not collected in 1996 and 1998.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, April 2005.

30-Day Smoking Prevalence for California and U.S. Middle School (6th–8th grade) and High School (9th–12th grade) Students, 2000–2004



Source: The 2000 data is from the National Youth Tobacco Survey collected by the American Legacy Foundation, which used passive parental consent. The 2002–2004 data is from the California Student Tobacco Survey, which used active parental consent.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, April 2005.

30-Day Smoking Prevalence of High School Students (9th–12th grade) by Ethnicity



Source: The California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS), 2002 and 2004.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, April 2005.

Youth Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

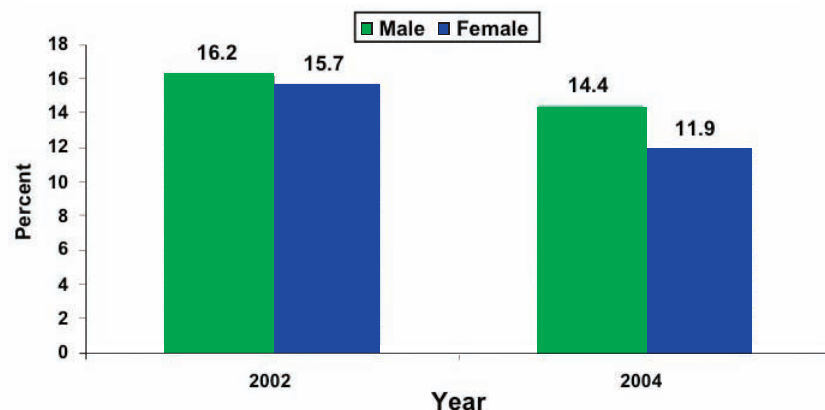
- Smoking prevalence among all racial/ethnic groups of high school students was lower in 2004 compared to 2002.
- Smoking prevalence for Asian/Pacific Islander high school students declined about 38% between 2002 and 2004, the largest decline among all racial/ethnic groups.

About the Survey

The *California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS)* (2002–2004) is a large, in-school student survey of tobacco use. Data was collected for both middle (grades 6–8) and high school (grades 9–12) students.

The sampling strategy includes stratification by 12 regions in California. The *CSTS* is weighted to the 2001 population of California in-school youth, by gender, grade level, and race/ethnicity.

30-Day Smoking Prevalence of High School Students (9th–12th grade) by Gender



Source: The California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS), 2002 and 2004.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, April 2005.

Youth Prevalence by Gender

- In 2002 and 2004, high school student smoking rates did not differ significantly between males and females.
- Between 2002 and 2004, high school female smoking prevalence declined by 24.0%, while male smoking prevalence declined by 11.0%.

California Department of Health Services
Tobacco Control Section
P.O. Box 997413 MS 7206
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413
www.dhs.ca.gov/tobacco
November 2005

